



**News from Congressman**

# **Tom Lantos**

**12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of California  
San Mateo/San Francisco**

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## **LANTOS VOTES FOR DEMOCRATIC BILL TO EXTEND UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FOR JOBLESS LABELS REPUBLICAN BILL "TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE"**

Washington, D.C. - Congressman Tom Lantos (D-San Mateo/San Francisco) today cast a vote in the U.S. House of Representatives in support of Democratic legislation to extend unemployment benefits to all jobless Americans an additional 26 months. He also leveled harsh criticism at Republican leaders for their version of the bill which ultimately passed.

"I strongly support Democrats' attempt to extend unemployment benefits for America's jobless workers an additional 26 weeks, and I deeply regret that Republicans defeated this critical legislation in the House of Representatives today. The economic malaise that has gripped America under the Bush Administration has taken its hardest toll on the millions of Americans who have lost their jobs. Corporate scandals only add insult to injury as unemployed workers watch as corrupt CEOs cash in. Rapid relief is needed for these victims to help them make ends meet and to stimulate our economy - rapid relief that the Democratic plan provides," Congressman Lantos said.

"The Republican alternative, on the other hand, provides jobless Americans with too little, too late. Last November, in one of the final acts of the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress, Republicans refused to consider legislation to extend unemployment benefits into the new year, leaving millions of Americans uncertain during the holiday season. They have since been forced by public outcry to see the error of their ways only to commit another by offering the extend benefits for a mere 13 weeks after workers saw their benefits end two weeks ago. Republicans also exclude low-wage and part-time workers from their plan. If this is the 'compassionate conservatism' Republicans promised, working Americans should look elsewhere," said Congressman Lantos.

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